

Critics insist America cannot trust Iran. I agree . . . I still have serious doubts about their government.

Senator CARPER.

We need not, and indeed should not, trust the Iranian regime. Implementation of this agreement may be challenging and we need to be prepared for the possibility that Iran will violate the agreement.

Senator CASEY.

When Iranian extremist leaders chant "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," the first question we have is, "How in the world can we trust them to live up to an agreement?" The answer is: We cannot.

Senator STABENOW.

Even under the deal, we should expect that Iran will cheat when it can, particularly at the margins; that it will continue or even ramp up its destabilizing activities and sponsorship of terrorism with the additional resources provided by increased sanctions relief; that it will seek to break out if the opportunity presents itself after 15 years when specialized inspections fade and many limits on its nuclear program are lifted.

Senator BOOKER.

Iran has misled us in the past when it comes to their nuclear program.

Senator MARKEY.

What a condemnation of Iran, what an indictment of this nuclear deal with Iran. But this indictment comes from the supporters of the deal. Despite their own words, these Democrats have chosen to give Iran billions of dollars that will be used to fund terror and war and ultimately put Iran on the path to nuclear weapons.

So let there be no mistake for history about the consequences of these Democrats' choice: When Iran detonates a nuclear device, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran launches a missile capable of hitting the United States, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran kills more Americans, as it has in Iraq and Afghanistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran imprisons American hostages, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran attacks Israel through Hezbollah's missiles or Hamas's tunnels, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran kills Jews around the world in places like Argentina and Bulgaria, these Democrats will bear responsibility. When Iran massacres its own citizens, these Democrats will bear responsibility.

President Obama and these 42 Democrats bear a direct political, moral, and personal responsibility for the coming crimes and outrages of Iran's ayatollahs. There will be grave consequences for them and for all of us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 242 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 242) celebrating 25 years of success from the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2663 to the resolution and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] proposes an amendment numbered 2663.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

On page 4, line 1, strike "it is the sense of the Senate that" and insert "the Senate".

On page 4, strike line 2 and all that follows through page 5, line 23, and insert the following:

(1) commends ORWH for its work over the past 25 years to improve and save the lives of women worldwide and expresses that ORWH must remain intact for this and future generations;

(2) recognizes that there remain striking sex and gender differences among many diseases and conditions on which ORWH should continue to focus;

(3) encourages ORWH to continue to focus on ensuring that NIH supports biomedical research that considers sex as a biological variable across the research spectrum; and

(4) encourages the Director of the NIH to continue to consult and involve ORWH on all matters related to the influence of sex and gender on health, especially those matters pertaining to the consideration of sex as a biological variable in research with vertebrate animals and humans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2663) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 242), as amended, was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I further ask unanimous consent that the Mikulski-Colins amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the title amendment be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2664) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the eighteenth whereas clause, strike "CDC" and insert "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 242

Whereas, on September 10, 1990, the Office of Research on Women's Health (in this resolution referred to as "ORWH") was established at the National Institutes of Health (in this resolution referred to as "NIH") to—

(1) ensure that women were included in NIH-funded clinical research;

(2) set research priorities to address gaps in scientific knowledge; and

(3) promote biomedical research careers for women;

Whereas ORWH was established in law by the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-43; 107 Stat. 122) and implemented the law requiring researchers to include women in NIH-funded tests of new drugs and other clinical trials;

Whereas today, more than ½ of the participants in NIH-funded clinical trials are women, enabling the development of clinical approaches to prevention, diagnosis, or treatment appropriate for women;

Whereas, in 2015, ORWH, with enthusiastic support from NIH leadership, announced that, beginning in January 2016, NIH-funded scientists must account for the possible role of sex as a biological variable in vertebrate animal and human studies;

Whereas ORWH, along with NIH leadership, enhances awareness of the need to adhere to principles of rigor and transparency, including the need to publish sex-specific results to inform the treatment of women, men, boys, and girls;

Whereas over the past 25 years, ORWH has helped expand research on women's health beyond its roots in reproductive health to include—

(1) the study of the health of women across the life-spans of women; and

(2) biomedical and behavioral research from cells to selves;

Whereas by studying both sexes, ORWH is leading the scientific community to make discoveries headed toward treatments that are more personalized for both women and men;

Whereas today, ORWH communicates through programs and policies that sex and gender affect health, wellness, and how diseases progress;

Whereas turning discovery into health for all, the NIH motto, means studying both females and males across the biomedical research continuum;

Whereas the ORWH Specialized Centers of Research on Sex Differences program supports established scientists who do basic, clinical, and translational research with a sex and gender focus;

Whereas all NIH Institutes and Centers fund and encourage scientists at universities across the Nation to conduct research on the health of women and on sex and gender influences;

Whereas over the past 25 years, ORWH has established several career-enhancement initiatives for women in biomedicine, including the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health program that connects junior faculty with mentors who share interests in women's health research;

Whereas ORWH co-directs the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, which develops and evaluates policies to promote the recruitment, retention, and sustained advancement of women scientists;

Whereas the Women's Health Initiative (in this resolution referred to as "WHI") marked the first long-term study of its kind and resulted in a wealth of information so that women and their physicians can make more

informed decisions regarding postmenopausal hormone therapy;

Whereas WHI reduced the incidence of breast cancer by 10,000 to 15,000 cases per year, and the overall health care savings far exceeded the WHI investment;

Whereas ORWH supported the National Cancer Institute's development of a vaccine that prevents the transmission of Human Papilloma Virus, resulting in a decrease in the number of cases of cervical cancer;

Whereas, in 1994, ORWH co-sponsored with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases a landmark study, the results of which showed that giving the drug AZT to HIV-infected women with little or no prior antiretroviral therapy reduced the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by ⅔;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, perinatal HIV infections in the United States have dropped by more than 90 percent;

Whereas ORWH co-funded a large clinical study of the genetic and environmental risk factors for ischemic stroke, which identified a strong relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked per day and the probability of ischemic stroke in young women, prompting the targeting of smoking as a preventable and modifiable risk factor for cerebrovascular disease in young women; and

Whereas over the past 25 years, ORWH has contributed support toward major advances in knowledge about the genetic risk for breast cancer, and discovery of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic risk markers has enabled better-informed genetic counseling and treatment for members of families that carry mutant alleles: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends ORWH for its work over the past 25 years to improve and save the lives of women worldwide and expresses that ORWH must remain intact for this and future generations;

(2) recognizes that there remain striking sex and gender differences among many diseases and conditions on which ORWH should continue to focus;

(3) encourages ORWH to continue to focus on ensuring that NIH supports biomedical research that considers sex as a biological variable across the research spectrum; and

(4) encourages the Director of the NIH to continue to consult and involve ORWH on all matters related to the influence of sex and gender on health, especially those matters pertaining to the consideration of sex as a biological variable in research with vertebrate animals and humans.

The amendment (No. 2665) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health."

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I think the parliamentary choreography does not show what we just did.

We are now, through a resolution co-sponsored by Senator COLLINS and me, cosponsored by all the women of the Senate on both sides of the aisle, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health.

Twenty-five years ago, on September 10, 1990, the Office of Research on Women's Health was established at NIH. It ensured that women were included in NIH-funded research protocols. It set research priorities, scientific peer review and scientific knowledge, and it promoted medical research.

There were two outcomes that I am so proud of—No. 1, what we have done to improve women's health, and No. 2, we showed that a process of working on a bipartisan basis actually worked.

This is not to tell old war stories about legislative issues. Twenty-five years ago women were not included in the protocols at NIH. There were many reasons given, most of them not scientifically reliable or accurate. Working together, Senator Nancy Kassebaum and I—the only two women in the Senate at the time—joined hands with the House—Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Connie Morella, and Senator Olympia Snowe—and we worked together to get legislation passed to get women included in the protocols, scientifically appropriate, and to establish the office of women's health. We worked then with Senator Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter here and Senator Ted Kennedy and Senator Kassebaum to get it done. These roll-calls of people who are no longer with us in this institution and some who passed by showed we got it done. It was modest in money, big in dreams. I will give one outcome of what they did.

George Bush the elder appointed Dr. Bernadine Healy to be head of NIH. Dr. Healy led a scientific study on hormone replacement. She was able to get the money because of Tom Harkin, Arlen Specter, and all of us, all working together. I was an appropriator as well who helped and assisted, Senator Kennedy, Senator Nancy Kassebaum—now, of course, Baker. And guess what. This is the outcome: Because of that hormone replacement study, medical practice was changed because of the excessive use of hormones in inappropriate situations. As a result, it is estimated by public health epidemiologists that we save 15,000 lives a year. Because of the hormone replacement study, breast cancer rates went down 12 percent.

So when they say: Can't you guys and gals work together? When we do, we save lives. We save lives. It is estimated that over 600 lives were saved because of this one study alone, and more will happen every year. So when we get it together, yes, we save lives, hundreds of thousands at a time.

So I commemorate the great work of the Office of Research on Women's Health, and I want to once again, joining with my dear friend and esteemed colleague Senator COLLINS, show that when we work together, we can really make a change—a change that improves the lives of the American people, and women all over this country thank this body for the leadership we have provided.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to join with my friend and colleague, the Dean of the Senate women, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, in sponsoring this resolution to commemorate the 25th anniversary of

NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health. This office has improved and saved the lives of countless women not only in our country but worldwide. It has been a great success.

Our resolution, as Senator MIKULSKI mentioned, is cosponsored by every single one of the women serving in the Senate today. I always point out that just as the men of the Senate span the ideological spectrum, so do the women of the Senate. But we have come together to endorse this resolution because each and every one of us recognizes the critical, lifesaving work that has been done by this office at NIH.

As the Senator from Maryland has pointed out, this was a collaborative effort among women—including my former colleague, Olympia Snowe—in both the House and the Senate 25 years ago to redress the fact that so many clinical trials that were being conducted by NIH or through NIH funding excluded women. I remember one on heart disease that was called Mr. Fit. Mr. Fit. Not a single woman was included in this groundbreaking study despite the fact that women die of heart disease more than any other disease and despite the fact that women react differently than men do to different therapies, to different drugs.

Our resolution commends the office for its work over the past 25 years to improve and save the lives of women. It recognizes that there remain striking gender differences among many diseases and conditions on which this office should continue to focus. It also encourages the office to continue to focus on ensuring that NIH supports biomedical research that considers gender as a biological variable across the spectrum of research projects that we are doing. And it encourages the Director of the NIH to continue to consult and involve the Office of Research on Women's Health on all matters related to the influence of gender on health, especially those pertaining to the consideration of gender as a biological variable in research with humans.

I am delighted that we have now been able to clear the obstacles to the adoption of this resolution and that it has been approved without dissent. As my colleague has indicated, it is an example of a development that was taken 25 years ago in response to a real problem of women being excluded from clinical trials, from health care research, and we have made a difference with this office. That is why I am proud to join with my friend the senior Senator from Maryland, the Dean of the women of the Senate, in sponsoring this legislation with each of our female colleagues serving the United States as Members of this great body.

RECESS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.